

DRAFT:

RESOLUTION REGARDING MISSION STRATEGY FOR A CHANGING DIOCESE

Whereas The Episcopal Church honors the understanding of a parish as encompassing not only the church building but also the places and people within its geographic radius....

And whereas as Episcopalians, we honor the concept of a “cure of souls” such that the church is called to care for and build relationships with all who fall within a parish’s geographic footprint, and is furthermore not limited to presence on Sunday mornings...

And whereas we believe the Holy Spirit to be working in and through the potential merging of five Episcopal faith communities within Shelby County...

And whereas this merger will impact the number of faith communities in the diocese and the Episcopal presence in under-served, lower-income communities in north and south Memphis...

And whereas the diocesan faith communities outside of Shelby County face numerous challenges due to changing demographics and finances that call for the continuation of diocesan attention that is focused and thoughtful...

And whereas, in the midst of these challenges and realities, a mission strategy for the diocese could guide decision makers in embracing opportunities for strategic growth as well as racial and socio-economic diversity...

And whereas the laity, clergy, bishop, and diocesan staff have both an opportunity and a duty at a time such as this to fully engage in discerning and implementing a vision and strategy for God’s mission of presence in the Diocese of West Tennessee...

Be it resolved that...

This 44th Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee supports having the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council discern and develop a mission strategy for the

Diocese, with the input of lay and clergypersons from throughout the Diocese, and that a report of progress and recommendations be given at the 2026 Diocesan Convention.